

garagErasmus

The professional network of the Erasmus Generation



Presentation for universities

Registered and Hq Office
Località Cascine Vecchie, 12
56122 Tenuta di San Rossore
Pisa, ITALY

Office in Brussels
c/o Regione Toscana 14,
Rond-Point Schuman, B-1040
Brussels, BELGIUM

 info@garagerasmus.org

 facebook.com/garagerasmus

 [@garagerasmus](https://twitter.com/garagerasmus)

 [garagerasmus \(SlideShare\)](https://slideshare.net/garagerasmus)

Executive Summary

Background: Challenges for a more united Europe

Born out of the desire to bridge political and cultural borders and cooperate for greater economic prosperity, the European Union of today faces major challenges on its way forward. Growing tendencies of nationalism and xenophobia and enduring economic and social crises threaten the very core of European integration. There are strong indications that **Europe currently is missing its chance to focus on people, innovation, and growth.**

In many member states economic stagnation and unemployment – especially of young people – has reached unprecedentedly high rates. Yet, paradoxically, **Europe-wide one third of companies do not find the skills they need on the labour market.** Creative ideas and entrepreneurial minds are ever more sought after, as innovative forms of economic development, like incubators for start-ups, are growing tremendously in numbers and quality. Social entrepreneurship and innovation need greater support to find bottom-up solutions for societal problems and continue to form to a strong, active, inclusive European community of citizens.

What can garagErasmus do?

garagErasmus is building the first professional network of the Erasmus Generation. Former Erasmus students are a generation of extraordinary people who have had a life-changing experience and who can play a strategic role in Europe's future. Not only former Erasmus, but everyone who has lived abroad for a significant period during their studies, is part of this community. They represent the first true generation of Europeans: the Erasmus Generation.¹

Former Erasmus students also constitute an attractive pool of talents for public and private companies and employers, crowd-funders, and start-ups. Indeed examinations before and after a study or work period abroad show that internationally mobile young people are better equipped with the key competences and attitudes that employers seek, such as an open mind-set, the ability to work in multicultural and interdisciplinary teams, language competences, and creativity. Skills gained or improved during a mobility are important in order to get a first job, and at the same time they are recognised by employers during later stages of career development.

The mobility experience also fosters entrepreneurship: almost 1 in 10 students on an Erasmus job placement started their own company, and more than 3 out of 4 can envisage doing so. Attaining a managerial position within ten years after graduation is 20% more likely for Erasmus students. These talents continue to be more mobile: 26% moved abroad, compared to 15% of those not mobile during their studies. Finally, the majority (64%) of employers state that graduates with an international background are assigned great professional responsibility more frequently than others.²

In addition to its economic potential, also **the social impact of the Erasmus Generation is immense.** Former Erasmus students have left their comfort zone and experienced different ways of living and communicating, made contacts and friends abroad, and are able put their local environment in a larger context. They have the potential to transform their communities and bring the European to the local level: as individuals, employees, business leaders, activists – in a word, as citizens.

¹ See the [Appeal to the Erasmus Generation](#), read out before the European Parliament on November 5th, 2012.

² Source: European Commission, Erasmus Impact Studies 2013 and 2014 ([download latest edition](#)).

Main objectives of garagErasmus

- ✦ Offer a **networking and cooperation platform for all former Erasmus students** and facilitate the matching of these talents with companies' and other employers' needs Europe-wide
- ✦ Foster the development and **exchange of new ideas** and **stimulate innovation** in social and business entrepreneurship
- ✦ Support **economic growth** on the local by linking it with the global level, **attracting talents** that are interested in job opportunities, business development, and social innovation

Benefits for public and private organisations becoming Foundation Members:

- ✦ **Support the mission of garagErasmus:** reunite and empower the Erasmus Generation and promote the circulation of talents and ideas in Europe
- ✦ **Co-found a unique public and private alliance of universities, companies, cities,** and other important stakeholders in education and economic and social development
- ✦ **Participate actively in large Europe-wide face-to-face events (Meet-ups) and the Check-in Europe online platform** with a potential of up to 250,000 new Erasmus alumni as members each year; as well as in local and regional activities in partnership with garagErasmus4Cities groups that bring together students, alumni, young professionals, businesses, and municipalities
- ✦ **Take part in high-level events restricted to the leaders of the garagErasmus Foundation Members,** dedicated to discussing expert analyses and open brainstormings on overarching topics such as valorising internationally mobile talents, strengthening the ties between higher education and the job market, linking the local and European levels, and more

Specific additional benefits for universities:

- ✦ garagErasmus opens up an effective way to **track former students and follow their professional development** after their mobility and their studies
- ✦ As knowledge carriers and brand ambassadors, alumni play a central role in the development of a strong knowledge network and in future enrolment goals: **garagErasmus provides an attractive platform for engaging university alumni in a Europe-wide network with high visibility**
- ✦ **"Boomerang enrolment" and university branding:** garagErasmus offers to facilitate job placements and start-up creation for the Erasmus Generation; as Foundation Members, universities are part of this activity and can add it to the list of benefits for both their past and their future students
- ✦ garagErasmus and its network **strengthen universities' entrepreneurship strategies and branding**

Specific additional benefits for companies and public employers:

- ✦ **Direct access** to a highly qualified, diverse, multilingual, cosmopolitan pool of talents
- ✦ Find **new start-ups and ideas** to invest in or cooperate with
- ✦ Enhance own **visibility, branding, and outreach** (including about vacancies and calls)

What is garagErasmus?

garagErasmus is a professional network that connects former Erasmus students³ (currently aged between 20 and 50) in order to help them find the jobs they are looking for or create new businesses. By mobilising talents and business ideas, garagErasmus will contribute to wealth and development in Europe.

The garagErasmus Foundation was launched in 2012 at the European Parliament by an association of former Erasmus students. After two important years of preparatory activities, it has now entered its implementation phase. During the years 2013-2014, the basis for the full development of garagErasmus has been established. In particular, garagErasmus achieved the following milestones:



1. High visibility: 7,500 people joined the garagErasmus network in a few months' time, thus confirming their strong sense of belonging to this community.⁴ garagErasmus was featured on several TV & radio programmes and online news sites. From 2015, thanks to an agreement with the European Commission, the Check-in Europe online platform will automatically receive up to 250,000 former Erasmus as new members per year, which will lead to exceptional Europe-wide outreach.

2. Events and high-level support: garagErasmus continues to cooperate closely with the European Commission and also positioned itself at national levels. The Foundation organised events at the European and the Italian Parliaments, together with the Turkish Ministry for EU Affairs, and in Lisbon, Bordeaux, Rome, Milan, Budapest, Florence, and Brussels. In October 2014, the garagErasmus Annual Retreat in Pisa invited 60 participants including university rectors, business leaders, and distinguished education experts to discuss the economic and social potential of the Erasmus Programme.

3. Foundation Members: Five universities in four countries, two European university networks, four private companies, and two industrial associations became Members of the garagErasmus Foundation together with the cities of Lisbon, Pisa, and Tours. As of November 2014, over twenty universities and networks, cities, and companies are in the process of becoming Foundation Members.

4. Local associations: The garagErasmus4Cities (gE4) programme has attracted the first six local associations in Athens, Lisbon, Istanbul, Prague, Tours, and Warsaw, with interest from several candidate gE4s in various countries. These associations are the local "anchors" of the Foundation and will organise events, including large Meet-ups of the Erasmus Generation, starting in 2015.

³ The garagErasmus professional network is inclusive and invites all who lived abroad for a significant period during their studies. Former Erasmus are by far the largest part of this community - 3 million alumni in 2013 and 5 million in 2020.

⁴ garagErasmus has a [website](#), [Facebook page](#) (currently 'liked' by over 13,500 people), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

The garagErasmus **Advisory Council** is very active and provides suggestions, fundraising support, and advocacy to garagErasmus and its mission. The members of the Advisory Council are:

- Hywel Ceri Jones, founder of the Erasmus Programme at the European Commission
- Chantal Gaemperle, Group Executive Vice President, Human Resources and Synergies, LVMH
- Laura Howard, President, EAIE (European Association for International Education)
- Richard Hudson, CEO Science|Business and former Managing Editor, Wall Street Journal Europe
- Jan Muehlfeit, Former Chairman Europe, Microsoft
- Alf Rehn, Author and Chair of Management and Organisation at Åbo Academi University, Finland
- Joseph H. Weiler, President of the European University Institute (EUI)

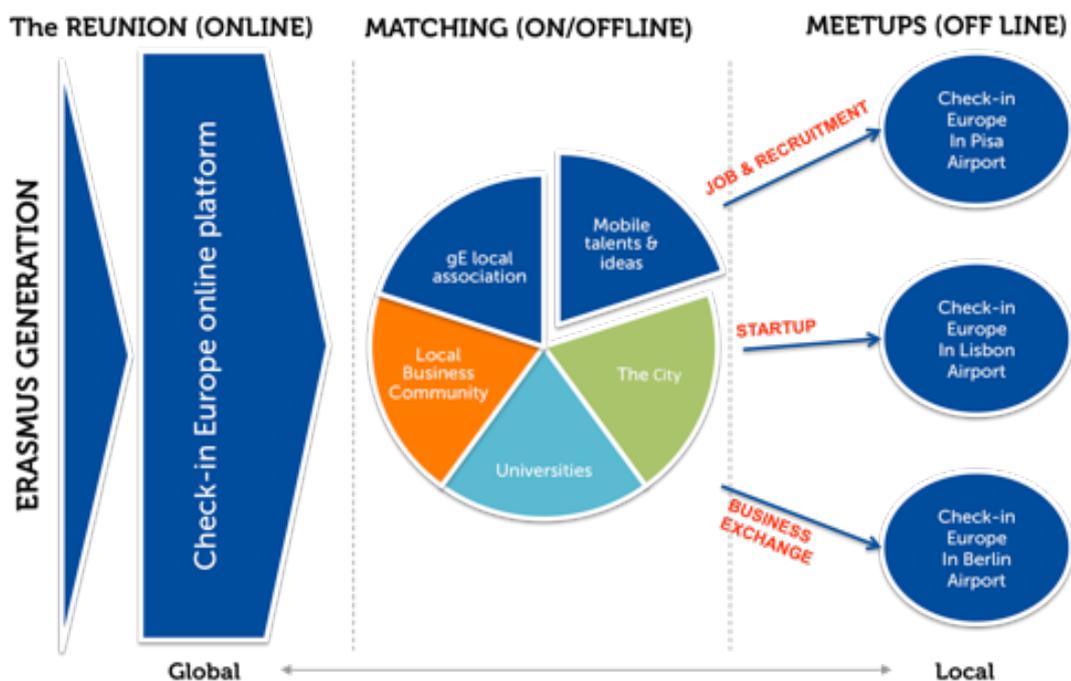
garagErasmus within the Erasmus+ framework

garagErasmus and its focus on job opportunities and business development complements and supports the Erasmus+ programme and the mandates of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA), and the Oceans Network.⁵ garagErasmus and these organisations will publicly launch the **Erasmus+ Alumni and Student Association (ESAA)**, which will be established by the four partners and will increase the effectiveness of their initiatives by enlarging their networks and visibility, while maintaining their independence and specific focus. The European Commission will extensively support this new organisation.

Key activity: “Check-in Europe”

Check-in Europe is the main strategic project of garagErasmus. It has online and offline features:

- ✦ it is a social network that brings the Erasmus Generation together with companies, cities;
- ✦ it supports face to face Meet-ups organised by local gE associations in their city airports.



⁵ The ESN is an international student association with a membership of ca. 160,000 Erasmus students. EMA connects the students and alumni of the Erasmus Mundus degree exchange programme and has ca. 10,000 members. Oceans associates students of bilateral exchange programmes between the EU and six other countries and has ca. 1,000 members.

Check-in Europe online

Check-in Europe is a web-resident application, managed by the garagErasmus Foundation, which allows the Erasmus Generation to register and become part of its **online community**.

Under the Erasmus+ programme, all participating students (more than 250,000 per year, i.e. two million during 2014-20) will be automatically registered in an Erasmus+ alumni database. This will be directly connected to the Check-in Europe platform, unless the student expresses the wish to remain uninvolved.

A certain amount of key data will be transferred to Check-in Europe from the European Commission's internal Erasmus+ monitoring tool, such as name, date of birth, sending and receiving institutions and countries, e-mail address, and study field. Once this



data has been transferred to the Check-in Europe platform, garagErasmus will invite the former Erasmus students to complete their profiles with their skills, CV, etc.

This has the potential to add, in four years' time, **1 million members** to the garagErasmus professional network, on top of the three million former Erasmus of today, who will be invited to register as well. This continually growing data set is thus the main asset of the garagErasmus initiative.

Check-in Europe online will allow social networking as well as editorial activities among the members. The application will facilitate the **online matching of demand and offer of talents and ideas as well as tutoring, mentoring, and crowdfunding activities**. The Check-in Europe platform will also play an important role in supporting Meet-up events.

Check-in Europe in the Cities: garagErasmus local associations' Meet-Ups

garagErasmus encourages the members of the Erasmus Generation across Europe to set up local garagErasmus associations – called **gE4Cities**. These groups will be the local anchors of the Foundation and the Erasmus Generation professional network. The gE4s will organise independent events as well as large Meet-ups, engaging former Erasmus around Europe and enabling face-to-face contact with the local business community, recruitment companies, etc.

gE4 is organised as a non-profit start up that is **independent from the Foundation**, which helps it getting started, and connects it to the wider national and European level. Notably, the gE4s will be able to connect their activities to the Europe-wide network and promote them through the Check-in Europe online platform.

Cities and universities are encouraged to support their local garagErasmus associations. In 2013-14, several cities and universities became Foundation Members through the direct involvement of their respective mayors or rectors, and other cities and universities have expressed their intention to join in the near future. Local teams of volunteers have been identified in these cities to kick off the creation of local garagErasmus associations.

How to become a garagErasmus Foundation Member



The Foundation's legal status represents an innovative model that includes private and public entities in the Foundation in form of an "**Alliance for Mobilising Talents and Ideas in Europe**". The Foundation members, together with the Advisory Council, contribute to the active life of the Foundation by participating, with their top-level representatives, in one or two exclusive events per year (among them the **Annual Retreat**), and by providing strategic advice to further the garagErasmus mission. Their yearly financial contribution of 1000 euros supports the Foundation in covering its running

costs and develop its core activities. Other than that, there are few formal obligations for Foundation Members, which are defined in the Ethical Guidelines and Principles.

Steps towards garagErasmus Foundation Membership

- 1) Opportunity to **discuss open questions**/special circumstances with the Foundation
- 2) New Foundation Member **signs Acceptance Agreement**, sends scan via email and original via post to Foundation (address below, 7. Contacts)
- 3) New Foundation Member **transfers membership fee** within 1 month after signing (unless different deadline has been agreed upon):

Account holder:	garagErasmus Foundation
IBAN:	IT79A0626070220100000000334
BIC:	CRFIIT3P
Foundation address:	Località Cascine Vecchie 12, 56100 Tenuta di San Rossore Pisa, Italy
Bank:	Cassa di risparmio di Pistoia e della Lucchesia
Bank's address:	Piazza Carducci 6, 55045 Pietrasanta, Italy
- 4) Foundation **countersigns** returned agreement

Contacts

For more information:

alliance@garagerasmus.org

Responsible for university communication:

Mr Sven Moersdorf, sven.moersdorf@garagerasmus.org

Phone: +39 050 500194 (Mon-Fri 10.00-16.00 CET).

Postal address:

garagErasmus Foundation
c/o Pisa Airport G. Galilei
Piazzale D'Ascanio, 1 Edificio A
56121 Pisa
ITALY

